

Oklahoma Crop Weather



USDA - National Agricultural Statistics Service
Oklahoma Field Office

cooperating with Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
P.O. Box 528804 Oklahoma City, OK 73152

405-522-6190 • 1-888-525-9226 • FAX 405-528-2296 • nass-ok@nass.usda.gov

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Warm, Open Weather Aids Fieldwork

Warm, dry weather during most of the week accelerated wheat growth and spurred additional row crop ground preparation. High winds reduced soil moisture supplies and caused some soil erosion. Topsoil moisture supplies dwindled from 46% to 71% short-to-very short during the past week. Subsoil moisture supplies were once again rated over 50% very short after a two week break from this statistic. Some farmers were surprised by an unexpected cold snap Saturday morning with temperatures in many areas of the State plunging below freezing. There were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	32	39	29	0
Last Week	18	28	53	1
Last Year	10	38	48	4

SUBSOIL MOISTURE BY PERCENT

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
This Week	52	37	11	0
Last Week	43	40	17	0
Last Year	6	18	74	2

Small Grains: Small grain condition ratings dropped slightly as dry weather reduced needed moisture supplies. Insurance adjusters were actively inspecting wheat fields in several localities in western Oklahoma to determine the extent of drought-damaged wheat. Wheat heading ranged from zero in the Panhandle and Northeast districts to 20 percent in the Southwest district. Some agronomists said that heads were already established and rain the past couple of weeks did not change the number of heads; however, yields may still be enhanced by additional rain and cool temperatures. Green bug infestations were noticeable across much of Oklahoma and Hessian flies have damaged small grain crops in areas of the North Central district.

SMALL GRAIN CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 9, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Wheat -					
This Week	31	31	27	11	0
Last Week	29	33	27	11	0
Last Year	1	5	31	50	13
Rye -					
This Week	22	29	44	5	0
Oats -					
This Week	59	29	12	0	0

Row Crops: Preparing seedbeds for planting was the primary activity on row crops although some additional corn acreage was planted. Only the Panhandle district has yet to plant corn. Corn plantings in the rest of the State ranged from 35% in the East Central district to 66% in the North Central district. Soybeans were 4% planted and were limited to eastern and southern counties. Planting of sorghum and peanuts had just started.

Watermelons: Planting of watermelons was restricted to the southern two-thirds of the State. Thirteen percent of the 2006 crop had been planted.

Peaches: The 2006 peach crop was hit by freezing temperatures, causing many trees to loose blooms. The full extent of freeze damage won't be known until later as trees move further along in the growth cycle. Fruit set in Oklahoma was reported as mostly light; however, the South Central and Northeast districts reported an average fruit set.

Pasture and Range: Pastures improved slightly during the week because of recent rains and warmer temperatures. Most of the good-to-excellent condition reports came from the eastern third of Oklahoma.

Livestock: Cattle remained in mostly poor-to-fair condition. Marketing was mostly average. Prices for feeder steers less than 800 pounds averaged \$110.46 per cwt. Prices for feeder heifers less than 800 pounds averaged \$98.25 per cwt. A few reports of lice, ticks, and flies were reported from the Northeast and North Central districts.

LIVESTOCK CONDITION BY PERCENT

Week Ending April 9, 2006

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	15	45	28	12	0
Pasture & Range	28	32	32	8	0

OKLAHOMA CROP PROGRESS									
Week Ending April 9, 2006									
Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.	Item	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 - Yr Avg.
Wheat -					Sorghum -				
Jointing	79	67	85	72	Seedbed Prepared	32	30	26	31
Headed	9	N/A	3	2	Planted	1	N/A	2	1
Rye -					Soybeans -				
Jointing	40	33	93	37	Seedbed Prepared	40	38	40	38
Oats -					Peanuts -				
Planted	85	84	99	97	Seedbed Prepared	33	20	49	47
Jointing	23	15	29	30	Cotton				
Corn -					Seedbed Prepared	54	40	57	60
Seedbed Prepared	73	49	75	68					
Planted	32	18	28	23					

Weather for Week Ending April 9, 2006: Temperatures ranged from 21 degrees at Boise City on Saturday, April 8th, to 91 degrees at Arnett on Wednesday, April 5th. Precipitation averaged 0.00 inches in the Southwest district to 0.36 inches in the East Central district. Soil temperatures averaged 52 degrees at Kenton on Friday, April 7th, to 73 degrees at Waurika on Thursday, April 6th.

MESONET TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA							
Week Ending April 9, 2006							
Districts	Temperature			Precipitation			
	High	Low	Average	This Week	March 1, 2006 to April 9, 2006		
					Total	Departure from Normal	Percent of Normal
	Degrees			Inches			
Panhandle	72	40	56	0.01	1.14	-1.05	52
West Central	73	46	59	0.01	2.29	-0.89	72
Southwest	76	49	62	0.00	2.71	-0.35	89
North Central	72	44	58	0.04	2.24	-1.33	63
Central	75	47	61	0.09	2.81	-1.49	65
South Central	77	50	63	0.02	4.66	-0.02	100
Northeast	72	46	59	0.26	3.08	-1.79	63
East Central	73	48	61	0.36	4.55	-0.84	84
Southeast	75	49	63	0.13	6.81	0.98	117

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